

research on, and expanded access to, investigational drugs for amyotrophic lateral sclerosis. **Page S9242**

### Appointments:

**Board of Visitors of the United States Merchant Marine Academy:** The Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, pursuant to Section 1295b(h) of title 46 App., United States Code, as amended by Public Law 101–595, and upon the recommendation of the Chairman of the Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation, appointed the following Senators to the Board of Visitors of the United States Merchant Marine Academy: Senator Cantwell (ex officio as Chair, Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation) and Senator Duckworth (Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation).

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**Motion To Discharge Thomas Nomination:** Pursuant to S. Res. 27, Committee on the Judiciary being tied on the question of reporting, the Majority Leader made the motion to discharge the Committee on the Judiciary from further consideration of the nomination of Holly A. Thomas, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.

**Pages S9219–31, S9231–41, S9271**

By 50 yeas to 46 nays (Vote No. EX. 502), Senate agreed to the motion to discharge the nomination from the Committee on the Judiciary. Subsequently, the nomination was placed on the Executive Calendar pursuant to the provisions of S. Res. 27, relative to Senate procedure in the 117th Congress.

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**Gawande Nomination—Agreement:** Senate continued consideration of the nomination of Atul Atmaram Gawande, of Massachusetts, to be an Assistant Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development.

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A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the nomination at approximately 9:30 a.m., on Friday, December 17, 2021; and that the motions to invoke cloture filed on Wednesday, December 15, 2021 ripen at 10 a.m.

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**Nominations Confirmed:** Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By 75 yeas to 18 nays (Vote No. EX. 503), R. Nicholas Burns, of Massachusetts, to be Ambassador to the People's Republic of China. **Pages S9241–42**

By 76 yeas to 13 nays (Vote No. EX. 504), Ramin Toloui, of Iowa, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Economic and Business Affairs).

**Pages S9241–42**

By 85 yeas to 5 nays (Vote No. EX. 505), Rashad Hussain, of Virginia, to be Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom. **Pages S9241–42**

Karen Jean Hedlund, of Colorado, to be a Member of the Surface Transportation Board for a term expiring December 31, 2025.

Lisa W. Wang, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Commerce.

Thomas Barrett, of Wisconsin, to be Ambassador to the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.

Maria Louise Lago, of New York, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for International Trade.

Shannon Corless, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis, Department of the Treasury.

Kurt D. DelBene, of Washington, to be an Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs (Information and Technology).

2 Navy nominations in the rank of admiral.

Routine lists in the Army, Foreign Service, and Space Force. **Pages S9242–50**

**Nomination Discharged:** The following nomination was discharged from further committee consideration and placed on the Executive Calendar:

Holly A. Thomas, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit, which was sent to the Senate on September 20, 2021, from the Senate Committee on the Judiciary. **Page S9271**

**Executive Communications:** **Pages S9257–58**

**Petitions and Memorials:** **Pages S9258–59**

**Executive Reports of Committees:** **Page S9260**

**Additional Cosponsors:** **Pages S9261–63**

**Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:** **Pages S9263–69**

**Additional Statements:** **Pages S9256–57**

**Authorities for Committees to Meet:** **Pages S9269–70**

**Record Votes:** Four record votes were taken today. (Total—505) **Pages S9236, S9242**

**Adjournment:** Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 8:37 p.m., until 9:30 a.m. on Friday, December 17, 2021. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S9270.)

## Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

### NOMINATIONS

**Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:** Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Ann Claire Phillips, of Virginia, to be Administrator of the Maritime Administration, Steven Scott Cliff, of California, to be Administrator

of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, and John Edward Putnam, of Colorado, to be General Counsel, all of the Department of Transportation, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

#### BUSINESS MEETING

*Committee on Finance:* Committee ordered favorably reported the nomination of Neil Harvey MacBride, of Virginia, to be General Counsel for the Department of the Treasury.

#### BUSINESS MEETING

*Committee on the Judiciary:* Committee ordered favorably reported the nominations of Bridget Meehan Brennan, Charles Esque Fleming, and David Augustin Ruiz, each to be a United States District Judge for the Northern District of Ohio, and John H. Chun, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Washington.

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## House of Representatives

### *Chamber Action*

**Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced:** 29 public bills, H.R. 6296–6324; 1 private bill, H.R. 6325; and 2 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 65; and H. Res. 857, were introduced. **Pages H7831–32**

**Additional Cosponsors:** **Pages H7833–34**

**Reports Filed:** There were no reports filed today.

**Speaker:** Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Butterfield to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H7829**

**Announcement by the Chair:** The Chair informed the House that, pursuant to House Resolution 851, the Speaker has certified to the United States Attorney for the District of Columbia the refusal of Mark Randall Meadows to appear for a deposition before the Select Committee to Investigate the January 6th Attack on the United States Capitol as directed by subpoena. **Page H7830**

**Senate Referrals:** S. 1404 was held at the desk. S. 1097 was held at the desk. S. 1543 was held at the desk. **Pages H7829–30**

**Senate Messages:** Message received from the Senate today and message received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appear on pages H7829–30.

**Quorum Calls—Votes:** There were no Yea and Nay votes, and there were no Recorded votes. There were no quorum calls.

**Adjournment:** The House met at 11 a.m. and adjourned at 11:04 a.m.

### *Committee Meetings*

#### OVERSIGHT OF THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION: PROTECTING SMITHSONIAN FACILITIES AND COLLECTIONS AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE

*Committee on House Administration:* Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Oversight of the Smithsonian Institution: Protecting Smithsonian Facilities and Collections Against Climate Change”. Testimony was heard from Nancy J. Bechtol, Facilities Director, Smithsonian Institution; Cathy Helm, Inspector General, Smithsonian Institution; and a public witness.

### *Joint Meetings*

#### UKRAINE

*Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe:* Commission received a briefing on defending Ukraine and deterring Putin from Michael H. Cecire, United States Helsinki Commission; Andrew Bowen, Analyst in Russian and European Affairs, Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress; Robert Lee, Kings College London, and Maryna Vorotnyuk, Royal United Services Institute, both of London, United Kingdom; and Katsiaryna Shmatsina, European Values Center for Security Policy, Prague, Czech Republic.

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#### NEW PUBLIC LAWS

(For last listing of Public Laws, see DAILY DIGEST, p. D1378)

H.R. 5142, to award posthumously a Congressional Gold Medal, in commemoration to the servicemembers who perished in Afghanistan on August 26, 2021, during the evacuation of citizens of the United States and Afghan allies at Hamid Karzai